

IN THE DAYS OF THE PLAY PARTY

MODERN ideas of propriety have the past in localities in which it was once most popular. Parties of this kind still obtain in some of the rural districts: but are revised ideas of corcull obtain in some of the rural districts; but our revised ideas of correct deportment have deprived honest young fellows and rosy-cheeked maidens of the delight they once found in coming together on long winter evenings in the old farmhouses or in the villages and enjoying the play party with its great variety of kissing games and noisy fun.

Often the party closed with an oyster supper, and there would be unlimited quantities of pie, doughnuts, and apples. The young fellows were an abundant supply of "pep'mints," and this confectionery would be in ous inscriptions as "I love you" or "You are my heart's delight" on them. The penetrating odour of musk was in evidence on the handkerchief of tricts; but our revised ideas of cor-

The penetrating odour of musk was in evidence on the handkerchief of the girls, while cinnamon drops were more popular as perfume with the the girls, while cinnamon drops were more Popular as perfume with the boys. There was a bright pink hair oil of pungent odour that was much in vogue, and the wearing of paper collars brought forth no invidious criticism, even though the collar was worn with a flannel shirt. Poetry and kissing were happily combined in many of the games.

* * * *

A CAME OF MIJOH KISSING.

A GAME OF MUCH KISSING.

RECALL one game involving so much kissing that by the time twenty twenty or more persons had entered

into it each would have been kissed fifty or sixty times. When playing this alluring game the young people ranged themselves in two lines. Facing each other, they sang lustily and to a rollicking air:

PURE GOLD MANUFACTURING CO., Limited Toronto

"Here stands a young couple, Both joined heart and hand! Oh, it's he wants a wife And she wants a man, And they can be married
If they can agree;
So march down the centre
In love and harmo-nee!

The couple at the head of the line the couple at the head of the line then clasped hands and marched down the room between the two lines, and this was supposed to constitute the marriage ceremony. Then the young man marched to the head of the line again behind the young men, and the young woman did the same behind the girls while the others same. girls, while the others sang:

"Now, they are married, And, since it is so, Away to the war in haste he must go!
I'm mourning, I'm mourning!
And this shall be my cry,
If I never see my true love
I surely shall die!"
The "rue love" then appeared and
embraced his bride, while the others

sang:
"Oh, here comes my true love! And how do you do, And how have you been Since I last saw you? The wars are all over And we're from war's alarms;

So can't you give us joy
By the raising of your arms?"
Then all the boys and girls clasped hands high in the air, creating a kind of arch, under which the reunited pair marched, the bride kissing every boy in line, while the bridegroom had the happy privilege of so solution. happy privilege of so saluting every-one of the girls.

Then the next couple at the head

of the line were "married" in the same way, and with the same osculatory result, and so on until each couple had been properly united.

THE KISS WITH NO HARM.

A NOTHER popular kissing game was "Sister Phœbe." When this game was on a girl took her place on a chair in the centre of the room, while the others sang:

"Oh, sister Phœbe, how happy were

The night we sat under Tom Snyder's peach tree! Tom Snyder's peach tree, heigh-o,

heigh-o! Tom Snyder's peach tree, heigh-o!

"Tom Snyder came out with his old rusty gun, And he said he would shoot us if we

didn't run, l if we heigh-o! didn't run, heigh-o,

If we didn't run, heigh-o!

"Now take this hat on your head to keep your head warm And take a sweet kiss, which will do you no harm; a great deal of good I know, I

know, A great deal of good, I know!"

Then "Sister Phœbe" chose the young man who should bestow the sweet kiss that was to do her no

your own and vour dealer's name and

"GRABBING" A PARTNER.

THERE was a marching game with no particular name, though I believe it was sometimes called "grab." When playing this game the young fellows chose partners among the girls and marched in a circle with some unmated young fellow in the middle. Then the marchers sang:

"Oh, happy was the miller Who lived by himself! As the wheel went around He gathered in his wealth. With one hand in the hopper And the other in the bag, As the wheel went around He cried out, 'Grab!'"

Then all the young fellows had to "change partners," and the unmated fellow in the centre had to watch his opportunity and "grab" a partner for himself if he could. When all the "grabbing" was done, the one who found himself without a partner had to take his place in the circle, and the doggerel lines were sung again.

Or it might be that this rhyme was

"Oh, happy was the rain-crow As she flew! If I was a young man,
I'd have two.
If one proved false
And from me did go, I'd have two strings
To my bow, bow, bow!"